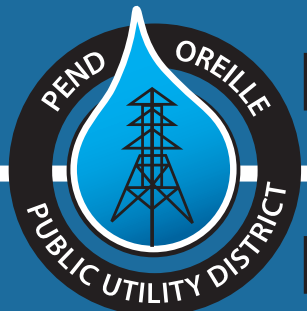


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Pops, Brats & Kilowatts Returns for Public Power Week

It's time for one of our new favorite PUD traditions!

Pops, Brats & Kilowatts returns Oct. 5 and 8 as part of Public Power Week, and this year's celebration comes with an extra reason to fire up the grill: Pend Oreille PUD is turning 90!

Come hang out with PUD employees, grab some free food and drinks, play a few games and learn a little more about your local public power provider. We'll also have a special display of PUD history courtesy of the Pend Oreille County Historical Society, giving you a look back at 90 years of serving the community.

Because Public Power Week overlaps with Fire Prevention Week, local fire districts will also be on hand with booths and fire-safety information.



Newport: Monday, Oct. 5 from 3:30–6pm
PUD Headquarters front yard

Box Canyon: Thursday, Oct. 8 from 3:30–6pm
Box Canyon Visitor Center parking lot



Bring the family, grab a brat and come celebrate 90 years of public power with us. We'd love to see you!

And because no celebration is complete without snacks, free coffee, cookies and cocoa will also be available at PUD offices throughout Public Power Week (Monday - Thursday Oct. 5–8).



STAY SAFE THIS FALL BY STAYING AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES

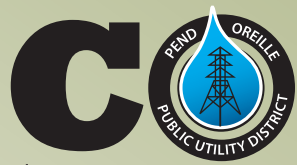
Autumn brings colorful leaves, cooler weather, and unfortunately, more chances for downed power lines, especially here in Pend Oreille County, where we are surrounded by dense forests and towering trees. Falling branches, storms, and wet conditions can create hidden dangers.

Remember these safety tips if you see a downed power line:

- **STAY BACK:** Keep at least 35 feet away, about the length of a school bus.
- **DON'T TOUCH:** Never touch the line, anything it's touching, or anyone who may be in contact with it.
- **CALL FOR HELP:** Call 911 and the PUD immediately.
- **WATCH WHERE YOU DRIVE:** Never drive over a downed line. Avoid flooded areas where electrical lines could be hidden.

As the leaves fall in our beautiful tree-filled county, take a moment to remind your family and neighbors that safety comes first. When it comes to electricity, it's always better to be cautious.





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Employee Spotlight: Meet the PUD's Man of the Trees

Trees are a major part of what makes Pend Oreille County such a beautiful place to live. They're also one of the biggest challenges when it comes to keeping the PUD's power system safe and reliable.

That's where William Zurcher comes in.

As Pend Oreille PUD's Vegetation Management Supervisor, William spends his days working with customers, coordinating the PUD's tree crew, inspecting rights of way and looking for ways to better manage the trees and vegetation growing around power lines.

His day usually starts with a look at the work waiting on the board.

"I start by checking customer service orders and lineman requests, developing a plan with my tree crew, and checking for any plan changes," William says.

From there, the work can take him in a lot of different directions. Some days are spent updating spreadsheets and documentation. Other days find him out on the road traveling across the county, looking for hazard trees or vegetation encroachment

near PUD lines. He also works on developing the PUD's drone program, which could provide another tool for identifying and managing vegetation throughout the system.

At the end of the day, William checks in with the tree crew, updates customer requests and lineman work orders, and keeps projects moving forward.

For William, however, vegetation management isn't simply about cutting trees away from power lines. A big part of his job is helping customers understand their trees and how they interact with the electric system.

"My work helps serve customers directly by helping with their tree needs," he says. "Whether it be removing a hazard tree, ensuring that their tree is healthy, or helping develop a long-term management plan with their trees in relationship to the power line."

That customer interaction is one of the things William enjoys most about the job.

"I like to answer questions about

trees, relationships to the power line and tree health," he says. "I also like helping our rights of way look cleaner and healthier."

That balance between protecting the power system and caring for the trees themselves is an important part of vegetation management. The goal isn't simply to remove trees. It's to identify potential problems, work with property owners and develop plans that make sense for both the customer and the PUD's electric system.

William has been with the PUD for about a year and a half. What originally drew him to the organization was the people and the community.

"I was drawn to this company through the friendly and helpful employees, the readiness of the customers, and the innovation that we all look forward to as a team," he says.

That spirit of innovation is also showing up in William's work, particularly as the PUD looks at new technology such as drones to help monitor its extensive electric system

and the vegetation growing around it. When he's not working, William still likes to spend plenty of time around trees. He also enjoys playing darts, trivia, finding new places to hang out and making new friends.

And, fittingly for someone whose work revolves around vegetation, he says there's one thing he always enjoys:

"As always, being among the trees."

Whether he's answering a customer's question, inspecting a potential hazard tree, coordinating the tree crew or looking for new ways to manage vegetation across the PUD's system, William's work helps keep Pend Oreille County's trees and power lines living together a little more peacefully.



Helping Wood Ducks Make a Comeback

Wood ducks nearly disappeared from North America in the early 20th century. Today, they're making a strong comeback, thanks in part to nest boxes that give these colorful waterfowl a safe place to raise their young.

The PUD is helping that recovery here in Pend Oreille County. As part of the Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project, we maintain more than 35 wood duck nest structures along the reservoir and work with local landowners and groups to improve shoreline habitat for waterfowl.

Want to help? The PUD has a limited number of nest boxes available for cavity-nesting waterfowl and can provide technical support to landowners interested in putting one up. To learn more, contact information@popud.org.

CONNECT WITH US!

Main Line: 509-447-3137

North County: 509-446-3137

South County: 509-242-3137

TDD: 800-833-6388

24-Hour Automated Phone Line: 844-971-1058

Commissioners:

Curt Knapp: cknapp@popud.org 509.671.1111

Dave Rick: drick@popud.org 509.671.7952

Troy Moody: tmoody@popud.org 509.991.1327

Website: www.popud.org



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Tue, Oct 6 - Newport

Tue, Oct 20 - Newport

Pops, Brats & Kilowatts

Mon, Oct 5 - Newport

Thur, Oct 8 - Lone
3:30pm - 6:00pm